

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Leave Registry

82-12466/1

28 OCT 1982

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Thank you for your letter of 8 October 1982 regarding your efforts to gather material on women who worked for the OSS.

I know from my own experience as well as from information provided by the Agency's Information and Privacy Coordinator, Mr. Larry R. Strawderman, that it takes a seemingly interminable length of time to completely process the Freedom of Information Act requests that we receive. Given the current backlog of more than 2800 individual inquiries being handled by this Agency, there are few exceptions granted to our standard processing policy of first-received, first-answered. Such accelerated processing can and will be initiated where a clearly established and compelling reason can be supported for the early production of records to sustain life or to meet the requirements of an individual in matters before the courts.

We in the Agency fully realize that our position and the circumstances occasioned by our backlog cannot be appreciated by our requesters, many of whom unquestionably are serious historians, researchers, authors, and academicians in varying fields of endeavor. Regrettably, we can operate fairly and effectively only through the policy mentioned above.

I have been assured, nevertheless, that those portions of your request where privacy considerations have been resolved are steadily moving forward in our backlog, and we hope our eventual contribution to your OSS effort will be of value.

Sincerely,

**7s/ William J. Casey**

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

DCI  
EXEC  
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